United Nations S/2005/491

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, including resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1583 (2005) of 28 January 2005 as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, in particular the statement of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21),

Recalling further the letter from its President to the Secretary-General of 18 May 2001 (S/2001/500),

Recalling also the Secretary-General's conclusion that, as of 16 June 2000, Israel had withdrawn its forces from Lebanon in accordance with resolution 425 (1978) and met the requirements defined in the Secretary-General's report of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/460), as well as the Secretary-General's conclusion that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had essentially completed two of the three parts of its mandate, focusing now on the remaining task of restoring international peace and security,

Reaffirming that the Council has recognized the Blue Line as valid for the purpose of confirming Israel's withdrawal pursuant to resolution 425 (1978) and that the Blue Line must be respected in its entirety,

Gravely concerned at the persistence of tension and violence along the Blue Line, in particular the hostilities that took place in May and the grave incident on 29 June, which demonstrated once more that the situation remains volatile and fragile, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 21 July 2005 (S/2005/460),

Emphasizing once again the interim nature of UNIFIL,

Recalling its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000,

Recalling further the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted on 9 December 1994,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a new period of six months presented in the letter from its Chargé d'affaires to the United Nations of 11 July 2005 to the Secretary-General (S/2005/444),

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Taking note of the Secretary-General's opinion that the situation does not support a change in UNIFIL's mandate or another reconfiguration of the Force at this stage, and his recommendation that its mandate be extended with no changes to the strength and composition of the Force,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL of 21 July 2005 (S/2005/460);

2. *Decides* to extend the present mandate until 31 January 2006;

3. *Reiterates* its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries and under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon;

4. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including the recent incidents across the Blue Line that have resulted in deaths and injuries on both sides, *expresses great concern* about the serious breaches and the sea, land and continuing air violations of the withdrawal line, and *urges* the parties to put an end to these violations, to refrain from any act or provocation that could further escalate the tension and to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of the UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel, including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel;

5. *Reiterates its call on* the parties to continue to fulfil the commitments they have given to respect fully the entire withdrawal line identified by the United Nations, as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590), and to exercise utmost restraint;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Lebanon to fully extend and exercise its sole and effective authority throughout the south, including through the deployment of sufficient numbers of Lebanese armed and security forces, to ensure a calm environment throughout the area, including along the Blue Line, and to exert control and monopoly over the use of force on its entire territory and to prevent attacks from Lebanon across the Blue Line;

7. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's intention to discuss with the Lebanese Government the next steps in preparing for an expansion of its authority in the south;

8. *Supports* the continued efforts of UNIFIL to maintain the ceasefire along the withdrawal line through mobile land and air patrols and observation from fixed positions and through close contacts with the parties to correct violations, resolve incidents and prevent their escalation, while stressing the primary responsibility of the parties in this regard;

9. *Welcomes* the continued contribution of UNIFIL to operational mine clearance, *encourages* further assistance in mine action by the United Nations to the Government of Lebanon in support of both the continued development of its national mine action capacity and clearance of the remaining mine/UXO threat in the south, *commends* donor countries for supporting these efforts through financial and in kind contributions and *encourages* further international contributions, and *stresses* the necessity for provision to the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL any additional existing maps and minefield records;

10. *Calls on* the parties to ensure UNIFIL is accorded full freedom of movement throughout its area of operation as outlined in the Secretary-General's

report, requests UNIFIL to report any obstruction it may face in the discharge of its mandate, and *reiterates* its call on the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations and UNIFIL;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNIFIL to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council before the end of the present mandate as well as on the activities of UNIFIL and the tasks presently carried out by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO);

13. *Expresses* its intention to keep the mandate and structures of UNIFIL under regular review, taking into account the prevailing situation on the ground, the activities actually performed by the Force in its area of operation, its contribution towards the remaining task of restoring international peace and security, the views of the Lebanese Government and the implications for the Force of an increased presence of the Lebanese army in the south;

14. *Looks forward* to the early fulfilment of the mandate of UNIFIL;

15. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.